A

CHARGE

DELIVERED TO THE

GRAND JURY,

AT THE

SESSIONS of the PEACE

HELD FOR THE

City and Liberty of *Weſtminſter*, &c.

ON THURSDAY the 29th of JUNE, 1749.

By *HENRY FIELDING*, Eſq;

CHAIRMAN of the ſaid SESSIONS.

PUBLISHED

By Order of the COURT, and at the unanimous Requeſt of the Gentlemen of the GRAND JURY.

DUBLIN:

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City, Borough and Town of Weſtminſter, *in the County of* Middleſex. } *At the General Quarter Seſſion of the Peace of our Lord the King, holden at the Town Court-Houſe near* Weſtminſter-Hall, *in and for the Liberty of the Dean and Chapter of the Collegiate Church of St.* Peter, Weſtminſter, *the City, Borough, and Town of* Weſtminſter, *in the County of* Middleſex, *and* St. Martin le Grand, London, *on* Thurſday *the Twenty-ninth Day of* June, *in the Twenty-third Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord* George *the Second, King of* Great Britain, *&c. before* Henry Fielding, *Eſq; the Right Hon.* ——— George *Lord* Carpenter, *Sir* John Croſſe, *Baronet*, George Huddleſton, James Crofts, Gabriel Fowace, John Upton, Thomas Ellys, Thomas Smith, George Payne, William Walmſley, William Young, Peter Elers, Martin Clare, Thomas Lediard, Henry Trent, Daniel Gach, James Fraſer, *Eſqrs. and others their fellows, Juſtices of our ſaid Lord the King, aſſigned to keep the Peace in the ſaid Liberty, and alſo to hear and determine divers Felonies, Treſpaſſes, and other Miſdeeds done and committed within the ſaid Liberty.*

HIS Majeſty's Juſtices of the Peace for this City and Liberty of *Weſtminſter*, now aſſembled at this General Quarter Seſſion of the Peace held for the ſaid City and Liberty, being of Opinion that the Charge this Day given by *Henry Fielding*, Eſq; the Chairman of this Seſſion, to the Grand Jury ſworn to inquire for our Sovereign Lord the King for the Body of this City and Liberty, and to the High and Petty Conſtables of the ſame, is a very loyal, learned, ingenious, excellent and uſeful Charge, highly tending to the Service of his Majeſty and Adminiſtration and Government, have unanimouſly agreed and reſolved, That the Thanks of this Court be, and the ſame are hereby given to the ſaid *Henry Fielding*, Eſq; for his ſaid Charge. And we do deſire that he will be pleaſed to cauſe the ſame to be printed and publiſhed, for the better Information of the Inhabitants and public Officers of this City and Liberty in the Performance of their reſpective Duties. *By the Court*

FORBES.

A

CHARGE

Delivered to the

GRAND JURY, &c.

Gentlemen of the Grand Jury,

THERE is no Part in all the excellent Frame of our Conſtitution which an *Engliſhman* can, I think, contemplate with ſuch Delight and Admiration; nothing which muſt fill him with ſuch Gratitude to our earlieſt Anceſtors, as that Branch of *Britiſh* Liberty from which, Gentlemen, you derive your Authority of aſſembling here on this Day.

The Inſtitution of Juries, Gentlemen, is a Privilege which diſtinguiſhes the Liberty of *Engliſhmen* from thoſe of all other Nations: For as we find no Traces of this in the Antiquities of the *Jews*, or *Greeks*, or *Romans*; ſo it is an Advantage, which is at preſent ſolely confined to this Country; not ſo much, I apprehend, from the Reaſons aſſigned by *Forteſcue*, in his Book *de Laudibus, cap.* 29, namely, *becauſe there are more Huſbandmen, and fewer Freeholders, in other Countries*; as becauſe, other Countries have leſs of Freedom than this; and being for the moſt Part

ſubjected to the abſolute Wills of their Governors, hold their Lives, Liberties, and Properties at the Diſcretion of thoſe Governors, and not under the Protection of certain Laws. In ſuch Countries it would be abſurd to look for any Share of Power in the Hands of the People.

And if Juries in general be ſo very ſignal a Bleſſing to this Nation, as *Forteſcue*, in the Book I have juſt cited, thinks it: *A Method*, ſays he, *much more available and effectual for the Trial of Truth, than is the Form of any other Laws of the World, as it is farther from the Danger of Corruption and Subornation*; what, Gentlemen, ſhall we ſay of the Inſtitution of Grand Juries, by which an *Engliſhman*, ſo far from being convicted, cannot be even tried, not even put on his Trial in any Capital Caſe, at the Suit of the Crown; unleſs, perhaps, in one or two very ſpecial Inſtances, till Twelve Men at the leaſt have ſaid on their Oaths, that there is a probable Cauſe for his Accuſation! Surely, we may in a kind of Rapture cry out with *Forteſcue*, ſpeaking of the Second Jury, *Who then can unjuſtly die in* England *for any criminal Offence, ſeeing he may have ſo many Helps for the Favour of his Life, and that none may condemn him, but his Neighbours, good and lawful Men, againſt whom he hath no manner of Exception.*

To trace the Original of this great and ſingular Privilege, or to ſay when and how it began, is not an eaſy Taſk; ſo obſcure indeed are the Footſteps of it through the firſt Ages of our Hiſtory, that my Lord *Hale*, and even my Lord *Coke*, ſeem to have declined it. Nay, this latter in his Account of the Second or Petty Jury, is very ſuccinct; and contents himſelf with ſaying, that it is very antient and before the Conqueſt.

Co. Lit. 155. *b.*

Spelman in his Life of *Alfred*, *lib.* 2. Pag. 71. will have that Prince to have been the firſt Founder of Juries; but in Truth they are much older, and very probably had ſome Exiſtence even among the *Britons*. The *Normans* likewiſe had antiently the Benefit of Juries, as appears in the *Cuſtumier de Normandy*; and ſomething like Grand Juries too we find in that Book under the Title *Suit de Murdyr*.

Bracton, who wrote in the Reign of *Henry* the Third, in his Book *de Corona*, *chap.* 1. gives a plain Account of this Matter: And by him it appears that the Grand Juries before the Juſtices in *Eyre*, differed very little at that Time from what they now are, before Juſtices aſſigned to keep the Peace,

Peace, Oyer, and Terminer, and Goal-Delivery, unleſs in the Manner of chuſing them, and unleſs in one other Reſpect; there being then a Grand Jury, ſworn for every Hundred; whereas at preſent one ſerves for the whole County, Liberty, &c.

But before this Time, our Anceſtors were ſenſible of the great Importance of this Privilege, and extremely jealous of it, as appears by the 29th Chapter of the great Charter, granted by King *John*, and confirmed by *Henry* the Third. For thus my Lord *Coke*, 2 *Inſtit.* 46, expounds that Chapter. *Nullus liber homo capiatur*, &c. 'No Man ſhall be 'taken, that is (ſays he) reſtrained of Liberty, by Petition 'or Suggeſtion to the King and his Council; unleſs it be by 'Indictment or Preſentment of good and lawful Men, 'where ſuch Deeds be done.'

And ſo juſt a Value have our Anceſtors always ſet on this great Branch of our Liberties, and ſo jealous have they been of any Attempt to diminiſh it, that when a Commiſſion to puniſh Rioters in a ſummary Way, was awarded in the Second Year of *Richard* the Second, 'it was,' ſays Mr. *Lambard*, in his *Eirenarcha*, fol. 305, 'even in the ſelf-ſame 'Year of the ſame King, reſumed, as a Thing over-hard '(ſays that Writer) to be borne, that a Freeman ſhould be 'impriſoned without an Indictment, or other Trial, by his 'Peers, as *Magna Charta* ſpeaketh; until that the Experi-'ence of greater Evils had prepared and made the Stomach 'of the Commonwealth able and fit to digeſt it.'

And a hard Morſel ſurely it muſt have been, when the Commonwealth could not digeſt it in that turbulent Reign, which of all others in our Hiſtory, ſeems to have afforded the moſt proper Ingredients to make it palatable; in a Reign moreover when the Commonwealth ſeemed to have been capable of ſwallowing and digeſting almoſt any thing; when Judges were ſo proſtitute as to acknowledge the King to be above the Law; and when a Parliament, which even *Echard* cenſures, and for which Mr. *Rapin*, with a juſter Indignation tells us, he knows no Name odious enough, made no ſcruple to ſacrifice to the Paſſions of the King, and his Miniſters, the Lives of the moſt diſtinguiſhed Lords of the Kingdom, as well as the Liberties and Privileges of the People. Even in that Reign, Gentlemen, our Anceſtors could not, as Mr. *Lambard* remarks, be brought by

any

any Neceſſity of the Times, to give up, in any ſingle Inſtance, this their invaluable Privilege.

Another conſiderable Attempt to deprive the Subject of the Benefit of Grand Juries was made in the eleventh Year of *Henry* the Seventh. The Pretence of this Act of Parliament, was the wilful Concealments of Grand Jurors, in their Inqueſts; and by it 'Power was given to the Juſtices 'of Aſſize in their Seſſions, and to the Juſtices of Peace in 'every County, upon Information for the King, to hear 'and determine all Offences and Contempts (ſaving Trea-'ſon, Murder or Felony) by any Perſon againſt the Effect 'of any Statute.'

My Lord *Coke* in his 4th Inſtitute fol. 40. ſets forth this Act at large, not as a Law which in his time had any Force, but *in Terrorem*; and, as he himſelf ſays, that the like ſhould never be attempted in any future Parliament.

'This Act, ſays Lord *Coke*, had a fair flattering Pream-'ble; but in the Execution, tended diametrically contrary; 'viz. to the high Diſpleaſure of Almighty GOD; and to 'the great Let, nay, the utter Subverſion of the Common 'Law; namely, by depriving the Subject of that great 'Privilege of being indicted and tried by a Jury of their 'Countrymen.'

By Pretext of this Law, ſays the great Writer I have juſt cited, *Empſon* and *Dudley* did commit upon the Subject inſufferable Preſſures and Oppreſſions. And we read in Hiſtory, that ſoon after the Act took place, Sir *William Capel*, Alderman of *London*, who was made the firſt Object of its Tyranny, was fined two thouſand ſeven hundred Pounds, ſixteen hundred of which he actually paid to the King, by way of Compoſition. A vaſt Sum in thoſe Days, to be impoſed for a Crime ſo minute, that ſcarce any Notice is taken of it in Hiſtory.

Our Anceſtors, however, bore not long this Invaſion on their Liberties; for in the very firſt Year of King *Henry* VIII. this flagitious Act was repealed, and the Adviſers of all the Extortions committed by it were deſervedly ſacrificed to the public Reſentment.

Gentlemen, I ſhall mention but two more Attacks on this moſt valuable of all our Liberties; the firſt of which was indeed the greateſt of all, I mean that curſed Court of Star-Chamber, which was erected under the ſame King.

I ſhall not before you, Gentlemen, enter into a Conteſt with

with my Lord *Coke*, whether this Court had a much older Exiſtence, or whether it firſt begun under the Statute of 3 *Henry* VII. For my Part I clearly think the latter.

1. Becauſe the Statute which erects it mentions no ſuch Court as then exiſting, and moſt manifeſtly ſpeaks the Language of Creation, not of Confirmation.

2. Becauſe it was expreſly ſo underſtood by the Judges, within five Years after the Statute was made, as appears by the Year-Book of 8 *Henry* VII. *Paſch. Fol.* 13. *Plac.* 7.

Laſtly, Becauſe all our Hiſtorians and Law-writers before that Time are ſilent concerning any ſuch Court; for as to the Records and Acts of Parliament cited by my Lord *Coke*, they are moſt evidently to be applied only to the King and Council, to whom, in old Time, Complaints were, in very extraordinary Caſes, preferred.

This old Court, my Lord Coke himſelf confeſſes, ſat very rarely; ſo rarely indeed, that there are no Traces left of its Proceedings, at leaſt of any ſuch as were afterwards had under the Authority of the Statute. Had this Court had an original Exiſtence in the Conſtitution, I do not ſee why the great Lawyer is ſo ſevere againſt the before-mentioned Act of the 11th of *Henry* VII. or how he can, with any Propriety, call the Liberty of being accuſed and tried only by Juries, the Birth-right of an *Engliſh* Subject.

The other Inſtance was that of the High Commiſſion Court, inſtituted by Parliament in the firſt Year of Queen *Elizabeth*.

This Act likewiſe pretends to refer to an Authority in being. The Title of it is, An Act reſtoring to the Crown the antient Juriſdiction, *&c.* By which, ſaith Lord *Coke*, 4 *Inſt.* 325. the Nature of the Act doth appear; *viz.* that it is an Act of Reſtitution.

And hence the Court of Common-Pleas, in the Reign of *James* I. well argued, that the Act being meant to reſtore to the Crown the antient eccleſiaſtical Juriſdiction, the Commiſſioners could derive no other Power from it than before belonged to that eccleſiaſtical Juriſdiction.

But however neceſſary, as my Lord *Coke* ſays, this Act might have been at its firſt Creation, or however the Intention of the Legiſlature might have been to reſtrain it, either as to Time or Perſons, certain it is, that the Commiſſioners extended its Juriſdiction in many Caſes, to the great Grievance of the Subject, 4 Inſt. 326.

Subject, and to the depriving them of that Privilege which I have just mentioned to be the Birth-right of an *Englishman*.

The Uses made of these Courts, and particularly under that unhappy Prince *Charles* I. need not be mentioned. They are but too well known. Let it suffice, that the Spirit of our Ancestors at last prevailed over these Invasions of their Liberties, and these Courts were for ever abolished.

And, Gentlemen, if we have just Reason to admire the great Bravery and Steadiness of those our Ancestors, in defeating all the Attempts of Tyranny against this excellent Branch of our Constitution, we shall have no less Reason, I apprehend, to extol that great Wisdom, which they have from time to time demonstrated, in well ordering and regulating their Juries; so as to preserve them as clear as possible from all Danger of Corruption. In this Light, Gentlemen, we ought to consider the several Laws by which the Morals, the Character, the Substance, and good Demeanor of Juries are regulated. These Jurors, Gentlemen, must be good and lawful Men, of Reputation and Substance in their Country, chosen at the Nomination of neither Party, absolutely disinterested and indifferent in the Cause which they are to try. Upon the whole, the Excellence of our Constitution, and the great Wisdom of our Laws, which *Fortescue*, my Lord *Coke*, and many other great Writers, have so highly extolled, is in no one Instance so truly admirable as in this Institution of our Juries.

I hope, Gentlemen, I shall not be thought impertinent, in having taken up so much of your Time to shew you the great Dignity and Importance of that Office which you are now assembled here to execute; the Duties of which it is incumbent on me concisely to open to you; and this I shall endeavour in the best Manner I am able.

The Duty, Gentlemen, of a Grand Juror, is to enquire of all Crimes and Misdemeanors whatsoever, which have been committed in the County or Liberty for which he serves as a Grand Juror, and which are anywise cognizable by the Court in which he is sworn to enquire.

And this Enquiry is in a twofold Manner, by way of Indictment, and by way of Presentment.

Which two Words, Mr. *Lambard*, *fol.* 461, thus explains:

A Presentment, says he, I take to be a meer Determination of the Jurors themselves; and an Indictment is the Verdict

Verdict of the Jurors, grounded upon the Accuſation of a third Perſon: So that a Preſentment is but a Declaration of the Jurors, without any Bill offered before; and an Indictment their finding of a Bill of Accuſation to be true.

The uſual Method of Charge hath been to run over the ſeveral Articles, or Heads of Crimes, which might poſſibly become ſubject to the Enquiry of the Grand Jury.

This we find in *Bracton*, who writ ſo long ago as the Reign of *Henry* III. was the Practice of the Juſtices in Eyre, *l.* 3. *c.* 1. And my Lord *Coke* ſays, 4 *Inſt.* 183. That the Charge to be given at the Seſſions of the Peace conſiſteth of two Parts; Laws Eccleſiaſtical for the Peace of the Church, and Laws Civil and Temporal for the Peace of the Land. And Mr. *Lambard*, in his *Eirenarcha*, gives the whole Form of the Charge at Length, in which he recapitulates every Article which was at that Time enquirable in the Seſſions.

But, Gentlemen, I think I may be excuſed at preſent from taking up ſo much of your Time; for tho' we are aſſembled to exerciſe the Juriſdiction of a very antient and honourable Liberty, yet, as there is another Seſſions of Juſtices within that County of which this Liberty is a Part, before whom Indictments for all Crimes of the deeper Dye are uſually preferred, it ſeems rather to ſavour of Oſtentation than Utility, to run over thoſe Articles which in great Probability will not come before you.

And indeed a perfect Knowledge of the Law in theſe Matters is not neceſſary to a Grand Juror; for in all Caſes of Indictments, whether for a greater or leſſer, a public or private Crime, the Buſineſs of a Grand Jury is only to attend to the Evidence for the King; and if on that Evidence there ſhall appear a probable Cauſe for the Accuſation, they are to find the Bill true, without liſtening to any Circumſtances of Defence, or to any Matter of Law.

And therefore my Lord *Hale*, *vol.* 8. *fol.* 158. puts this Caſe. 'If *A.* be killed by *B.* ſo that the Perſon of the 'Slayer and Slain be certain; and a Bill of Murder be 'preſented to the Grand Jury, regularly they ought to find 'the Bill for *Murder*, and not for *Manſlaughter*, or *Se de-* '*fendendo*; becauſe otherwiſe Offences may be ſmothered 'without due Trial; and when the Party comes on his 'Trial the whole Fact will be examined before the Court 'and the Petty Jury; for if a Man kills *B.* in his own

 'Defence,

'Defence, or *Per Infortunium.* or poſſibly in executing the 'Proceſs of Law upon an aſſault made upon him, or in 'his own Defence on the Highway, or in Defence of his 'Houſe againſt thoſe that come to rob him (in which three 'laſt Caſes it is neither Felony nor Forfeiture, but upon 'Not Guilty pleaded he ought to be acquitted) yet if the 'Grand Inqueſt find an *Ignoramus* upon the Bill, or find the 'Special Matter, whereby the Priſoner is diſmiſſed and 'diſcharged, he may nevertheleſs be indicted for Murder 'ſeven Years after;' whereas, if upon a proper Finding he had been acquitted, he could never afterwards be again arraigned without having the Plea of *Autrefoits acquit.*

This Doctrine of the learned Chief Juſtice you will apply to whatever Caſe may come before you: for where-ever you ſhall find probable Cauſe, upon the Oaths of the King's Witneſſes, you will not diſcharge your Office without finding the Bill to be true, ſhewing no Regard to the Nature of the Crime, or the Degree of the Guilt; which are Matters proper for the Cognizance and Determination of the Court only.

H. P. C. ii. 157. I muſt not, however, omit, on the Authority of the laſt-mentioned Judge, 'that if, 'upon the hearing the King's Evidence, or up-'your own Knowledge of the Incredibility of 'the Witneſſes pou ſhall be diſſatisfied, you may then re-'turn the Bill *Ignoramus.*'

It is true my Lord *Hale* confines this to Indictments for capital Offences; but I ſee no Reaſon why it may not be extended to any Indictment whatever.

One Caution more occurs on this Head of Indictment; and it is the Duty of Secrecy. To have revealed the King's Council diſcloſed to the Grand Jurors was formerly taken to be Felony; nay Juſtice *Shard,* in the 27th Year of the Book of Aſſiſes, *Placit.* 63. doubted whether it was not Treaſon; and tho' at this Day the Law be not ſo ſevere, yet is this ſtill a very great Miſdemeanour, and fineable as ſuch, and is moreover a manifeſt Breach of your Oath.

I come now, Gentlemen, to the Second Branch of your Duty, namely, that of preſenting all Offences which ſhall come to your Knowledge.

And this is much more painful, and of greater Difficulty than the former; for here you are obliged, without any direct Accuſation, to inform yourſelves as well as is poſ-

ſible

ſible of the Truth of the Fact, and in ſome meaſure likewiſe to be conuſant of thoſe Laws which ſubject Offences to your Preſentment.

Upon this Head therefore I ſhall beg Leave to remind you of thoſe Articles which ſeem to be moſt worthy of your Enquiry, at this Time; for indeed it would be uſeleſs and tedious to enumerate the whole Catalogue of Miſdemeanours that are to be found in our Statutes; many of which, though ſtill in Force, are, by the Changes of Times and Faſhions, become antiquated, and of little Uſe. *Ceſſante ratione Legis, ceſſat & ipſa Lex*; and there are ſome accidental and temporary Evils which at particular Seaſons have, like an epidemic Diſtemper, affected Society, but have afterwards diſappeared, or at leaſt made very faint Efforts to corrupt the public Morals. The Laws made to ſuppreſs ſuch, tho' very wholeſome and neceſſary at the Time of their Creation, become obſolete with the Evil which occaſioned them, and which they were intended to cure. But, Gentlemen, there are Evils of a more durable Kind, which rather reſemble chronical than epidemic Diſeaſes; and which have ſo inveterated themſelves in the Blood of the Body Politic, that they are perhaps never to be totally eradicated. Theſe it will be always the Duty of the Magiſtrate to palliate and keep down as much as poſſible. And theſe, Gentlemen, are the Miſdemeanours of which you are to preſent as many as come to your Knowledge.

And firſt, Gentlemen, I will remind you of preſenting all Offences committed immediately againſt the Divine Being; for tho' all Crimes do include in them ſome Degree of Sin, and may therefore be conſidered as Offences againſt the Almighty; yet there are ſome more directly levelled at his Honour, and which the Temporal Laws do puniſh as ſuch.

And, 1, all blaſphemous Expreſſions againſt any one of the Sacred Perſons in the Trinity, are ſeverely puniſhable by the Common Law; for, as my Lord *Hale* ſays, in *Taylor's* Caſe, 1 *Vent.* 293. 'Such Kind of wicked 'blaſphemous Words are not only an Of- 3 Keb. 607 'fence againſt GOD and Religion, but a 621. S. C. 'Crime againſt the Laws, State, and Go- 'vernment;' and in that Caſe the Defendant for Blaſphemy, too horrible indeed to be repeated, was ſentenced to

ſtand three Times in the Pillory, to pay a great Fine, and to find Security for his good Behaviour during Life.

In like Manner, all ſcandalous and contemptuous Words ſpoken againſt our holy Religion, are by the Wiſdom of the Common Law made liable to an Indictment; for 'Chriſtianity' (ſays that excellent Chief-Juſtice, in the Caſe I have juſt cited) 'is Parcel of the Laws of *England*; 'therefore to reproach the Chriſtian Religion is to ſpeak in 'Subverſion of the Law.' And to the ſame Purpoſe is *Attwood*'s Caſe, in *Cro. Jac.* 421. where one was indicted before the Juſtices of Peace for ſaying, that the Religion now profeſſed was a new Religion within fifty Years, *&c.* For as to the Doubt concerning the High Commiſſioners, ſtarted in that Caſe, and then, as it appears, over-ruled, that is now vaniſhed.

Nor are our Statutes ſilent concerning this dreadful Offence; particularly by 1 *Eliz. c.* 2. *ſect.* 9. a ſevere Puniſhment is enacted for any Perſon who ſhall in any Interludes, Plays, Songs, Rhimes, or by other open Words declare or ſpeak any thing in derogation, depraving or deſpiſing the Book of Common-Prayer, *&c.*

Mr. *Lambard*, I find, mentions this Act in his Charge, though the Execution of it be in the Counties confined to the Juſtices of *Oyer* and *Terminer* and of Aſſize; but the 22d *Sect.* of the Statute ſeems to give a clear Juriſdiction to this Court, at two of our Quarter-Seſſions.

The laſt Offence of this Kind which the wicked Tongue of Man can commit, is by profane Curſing and Swearing. This is a Sin expreſly againſt the Law delivered by God himſelf to the *Jews*, and which is as expreſsly prohibited by our bleſſed Saviour, in his Sermon on the Mount.

Many Statutes have been made againſt this Offence; and by the laſt of theſe, which was enacted in the Nineteenth Year of the preſent King, every Day-labourer, common Soldier, common Sailor, and common Seaman, forfeits One Shilling; Every other Perſon under the Degree of a Gentleman, Two Shillings; and every Perſon of or above that Degree, Five Shillings.

And in caſe any Perſon ſhall after ſuch Conviction offend again, he forfeits double; and for every Offence after a ſecond Conviction, treble.

Though the Execution of this Act be entruſted to one ſingle Magiſtrate, and no Juriſdiction, unleſs by Appeal, given

given to the Seſſions; yet I could not forbear mentioning it here, when I am ſpeaking in the Preſence of many Peace-Officers, who are to forfeit forty Shillings for neglecting to put the Act in Execution. And I mention it the rather to inform them, that whenever the Offender is unknown to any Conſtable, Petty Conſtable, Tithingman, or other Peace-Officer, ſuch Conſtable, *&c.* is empowered by the Act, without any Warrant, to ſeize and detain any ſuch Perſon, and forthwith to carry him before the next Magiſtrate.

And if theſe Officers would faithfully diſcharge the Duty thus enjoined them, and which Religion as well as the Law requires of them, our Streets would ſoon ceaſe to reſound with this deteſtable Crime, ſo injurious to the Honour of God, ſo directly repugnant to his poſitive Commands, ſo highly offenſive to the Ears of all good Men, and ſo very ſcandalous to the Nation in the Ears of Foreigners.

Having diſpatched thoſe Miſdemeanours (the principal ones at leaſt) which are immediatly committed againſt God, I come now to ſpeak of thoſe which are committed againſt the Perſon of the King, which Perſon the Law wiſely holds to be ſacred.

Beſides thoſe henious Offences againſt this ſacred Perſon which are puniſhed *ultimo ſupplicio*, there are many Articles, ſome of which involve the Criminal in the Guilt of Præmunire, and others are conſidered in Law as Miſpriſions or Contempts. The former of theſe is by Mr. Serjeant *Haukins*, in his Pleas of the Crown, divided into two general Heads: *Viz.*

Into Offences againſt the Crown.

And Offences againſt the Authority of the King and Parliament.

Under the former Head he enumerates nine ſeveral Articles; but as theſe chiefly relate to ſuch Invaſions of the Royal Prerogative as were either made in popiſh Ages in favour of the Biſhops of *Rome*, or in thoſe Times which bordered on the Reformation in favour of the Church of *Rome*, and are not practiſed, at leaſt not openly practiſed in theſe Days, I ſhall have no Need to repeat them here.

Under the latter Head he mentions only one, which was enacted in the Reign of Queen *Anne*, 6 *Ann. c.* 7. If any Perſon ſhall malicioufly and directly, by Preaching, Teaching, or adviſed Speaking, declare, maintain and affirm,

firm, the the pretended Prince of *Wales* hath any Right or Title to the Crown of theſe Realms, or that any other Perſon or Perſons hath or have any Right or Title to the ſame, otherwiſe than according to the Acts of Settlement; or that the Kings or Queens of this Realm, with the Authority of Parliament, are not able to make Laws to limit the Crown and the Deſcent, *&c.* thereof, ſhall incur a Præmunire.

A moſt wholeſome and neceſſary Law. And yet ſo mild hath been our Government, that I remember no one Inſtance of putting it in Execution.

Miſpriſions or Contempts are againſt the King's Prerogative, againſt his Title, or againſt his ſacred Perſon or Government.

Under theſe Heads will fall any Act of public and avowed Diſobedience; and denying his moſt juſt and lawful Title to the Crown; any overt Act which directly tends to encourage or promote Rebellion or Sedition; all falſe Rumours againſt his Majeſty, or his Councils; all contemptuous Language concerning his ſacred Perſon, by curſing, reviling him, *&c*, or by uttering any thing which manifeſts an Intention of leſſening that Eſteem, Awe and Reverence which Subjects ought to bear to the beſt of Princes.

Theſe are Offences, Gentlemen, which I muſt earneſtly recommend to your Enquiry. This, Gentlemen, is your Duty as Grand Jurors; and it muſt be a moſt pleaſing Taſk to you, as you are *Engliſhmen*; for in Proportion as you love and eſteem your Liberties, you will be fired with Love and Reverence toward a Prince, under whoſe Adminiſtration you enjoy them in the fulleſt and ampleſt Manner.

Believe me, Gentlemen, notwithſtanding all which the Malice of the Diſappointed, the Madneſs of Republicans, or the Folly of Jacobites may inſinuate, there is but one Method to maintain the Liberties of this Country, and that is, to maintain the Crown on the Heads of that Family which now happily enjoys it.

If ever Subjects had Reaſon to admire the Juſtice of that Sentiment of the Poet *Claudian*, *That Liberty never flouriſhes ſo happily as under a good King*, we have Reaſon at preſent for that Admiration.

I am afraid, Gentlemen, this Word *Liberty*, though ſo much talked of, is but little underſtood. What other Idea

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can we have of Liberty, than that it is the Enjoyment of our Lives, our Perſons, and our Properties in Security; to be free Maſters of ourſelves and our Poſſeſſions, as far as the known Laws of our Country will admit; to be liable to no Puniſhment, no Confinement, no Loſs but what thoſe Laws ſubject us to! Is there any Man ignorant enough to deny that this is the Deſcription of a free People; or baſe enough to accuſe me of Panegyric, when I ſay this is our preſent happy Condition?

But if the Bleſſing of Liberty, like that of Health, be not to be perceived by thoſe who enjoy it, or at leaſt muſt be illuſtrated by its Oppoſite, let us compare our own Condition with that of other Countries; of thoſe whoſe Polity ſome among us pretend ſo much to admire, and whoſe Goverment they ſeem ſo ardently to affect. *Lettres de Cachet*, Baſtiles, and Inquiſitions, may, perhaps, give us a livelier Senſe of a juſt and mild Adminiſtration, than any of the Bleſſings we enjoy under it.

Again, Gentlemen, let us compare the preſent Times with the paſt. And here I need not reſort back to thoſe diſtant Ages, when our unhappy Forefathers petitioned their Conqueror *that he would not make them ſo miſerable, nor be ſo ſevere to them, as to judge them by a Law they underſtood not.* Theſe are the very Words, as we find them preſerved in *Daniel*; in Return to which, the Hiſtorian informs us, nothing was obtained but fair Promiſes. I ſhall not dwell here on the Tyranny of his immediate Succeſſor, of whom the ſame Hiſtorian records, that 'ſeeking to eſtabliſh abſolute Power by Force, he made both himſelf and his People miſerable.'

I need not, Gentlemen, here remind you of the Oppreſſions under which our Anceſtors have groaned in many other Reigns, to ſhake off which the Sword of Civil War was firſt drawn in the Reign of King *John*, which was not entirely ſheathed during many ſucceſſive Generations.

I might, perhaps, have a fairer Title to your Patience, in laying open the tyrannical Proceedings of later Times, while the Crown was poſſeſſed by four ſucceſſive Princes of the Houſe of *Stuart*. But this, Gentlemen, would be to treſpaſs on your Patience indeed: For to mention all their Acts of abſolute Power, all their Attempts to ſubvert the Liberties of this Nation, would be to relate to you the Hiſtory of their Reigns.

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In a Word, Gentlemen, all the Struggles which our Anceſtors have ſo bravely maintained with ambitious Princes, and particularly with the laſt mentioned Family, was to maintain and preſerve to themſelves and their Poſterity, that very Liberty which we now enjoy, under a Prince to whom I may truly apply what the Philoſopher long ago ſaid of Virtue, *That all who truly know him muſt love him.*

The third general Head of Miſdemeanours, Gentlemen, is of thoſe which are committed againſt the Subject, and theſe may be divided into two Branches.

Into ſuch as are committed againſt Individuals only:

And into ſuch as affect the Public in general.

The former of theſe will probably come before you by Way of Indictment; for Men are apt enough to revenge their own Quarrels; but Offences *in commune nocumentum* do not ſo certainly find an Avenger; and thus thoſe Crimes, which it is the Duty of every Man to puniſh, do often eſcape with Impunity.

Of theſe, Gentlemen, it may be therefore proper to awaken your Enquiry, and particularly of ſuch as do in a more eſpecial Manner infeſt the Public at this Time.

The firſt of this Kind is the Offence of profligate Lewdneſs; a Crime of a very pernicious Nature to Society, as it tends to corrupt the Morals of our Youth, and is expreſsly prohibited by the Law of God, under the Denunciation of the ſevereſt Judgment, in the New Teſtament. Nay, we read in the 25th Chapter of *Numbers* the exceeding Wrath of God againſt the Children of *Iſrael* for their Fornication with the Daughters of *Moab*. Nor did the Plague which on that Occaſion was ſent among them, and which deſtroyed Four and twenty thouſand, ceaſe, till *Phineas*, the Son of *Eleazar* and Grandſon of *Aaron*, had ſlain the *Iſraelite* together with his Harlot.

And this, Gentlemen, though a ſpiritual Offence, and of a very high Nature too, as appears from what I have mentioned, is likewiſe a temporal Crime, and, as Mr. *Lambard* (122) ſays, againſt the Peace.

My Lord *Coke*, in his third *Inſtitute*, 206, tells us, that in antient Times Adultery and Fornication were puniſhed by Fine and Impriſonment, and were enquirable in Turns and Leets. And in the Year-Book of *Henry* VII. we find the Cuſtom of *London* pleaſed for a Conſtable to ſeize a Woman taken inthe Act of Adultery, and to carry her to Priſon. And

1 *H.* 7. fol. 6. plac. 3.

And though later Times have given up this Matter in general to eccleſiaſtical Juriſdiction, yet there are two Species which remain at this Day cognizable by the Common Law.

The firſt is, any open Act of Lewdneſs and Indecency in public, to the Scandal of Good-manners.

And therefore in *Michaelmas* Term, 15 *Car.* 2. *B. R.* Sir *Charles Sidney* was indicted for having expoſed himſelf naked in a Balcony in *Covent-Garden*, to a great Multitude of People, with many indecent Words and Actions; and this was laid to be contrary to the King's Peace, and to the great Scandal of Chriſtianity. He confeſſed the Indictment, and *Siderfin*, who reports the Caſe, tells us, that the Court, in Conſideration of his embarraſſed Fortune, fined him only 2000 Marks, with a ſhort Impriſonment, and to be bound three Years to his good Behaviour. An infamous Puniſhment for a Gentleman, but far leſs infamous than the Offence. If any Facts of this Nature ſhall come to your Knowledge, you will, I make no Doubt, preſent them, without any Reſpect to Perſons. Sex or Quality may render the Crime more atrocious, and the Example more pernicious; but can give no Sanction to ſuch infamous Offences, nor will, I hope, ever give Impunity. 1 *Sid.* 168.

The ſecond Species which falls under this Head, is the Crime of keeping a Brothel or Bawdy-Houſe. This is a kind of common Nuiſance, and is puniſhable by the Common Law.

It is true, that certain Houſes of this Kind, under the Name of public Stews, have been ſometimes tolerated in Chriſtian Countries, to the great Scandal of our Religion, and in direct Contradiction to its poſitive Precepts: But in the thirty-ſeventh Year of *Henry* the Eighth, they were all ſuppreſſed by Proclamation. And thoſe infamous Women who inhabited them were not, ſays Lord *Coke*, either buried in Chriſtian Burial when they were dead, nor permitted to receive the Rites of the Church while they lived.

And, Gentlemen, notwithſtanding the Favour which the Law in many Caſes extends to married Women, yet in this Caſe the Wife is equally indictable, and may be found guilty with her Huſband.

Nor is it neceſſary that the Perſon be Maſter or Miſtreſs of the whole Houſe; for if he or ſhe have only a ſingle Room, and will therewith accommodate lewd People to perpetrate Acts of Uncleanneſs, they may be indicted for keeping a Bawdy-Houſe. And this was the Reſolution of the whole Court, in *the Queen* and *Peirſon. Salk.* 332.

Nor is the Guilt confined to thoſe who keep ſuch Houſes; thoſe who frequent them are no leſs liable to the Cenſure of the Law. Accordingly we find, in the ſelect Caſes printed at the End of Lord Ch. J. *Popham's Reports*, that a Man was indicted in the Beginning of the Reign of *Charles* the Firſt, at the Seſſions of the Peace for the Town of *Northampton*, for frequenting a ſuſpected Bawdy-Houſe. And the Indictment being removed into the *King's-Bench*, ſeveral Objections were taken to it, which were all overruled, Judgment was given upon it, and the Defendant fined.

If you ſhall know, therefore, Gentlemen, of any ſuch Crimes, it will be your Duty to preſent them to the Court.

For however lightly this Offence may be thought or ſpoken of by idle and diſſolute Perſons, it is a Matter of ſerious and weighty Conſideration. It is the Cauſe, ſays my Lord *Coke*, of many Miſchiefs, the faireſt End whereof is Beggary; and tends directly to the Overthrow of Men's Bodies, to the waſting of their Livelihoods, and to the indangering of their Souls.

To eradicate this Vice out of Society, however it may be the Wiſh of ſober and good Men, is, perhaps, an impoſſible Attempt; but to check its Progreſs, and to ſuppreſs the open and more profligate Practice of it, is within the Power of the Magiſtrate, and it is his Duty. And this is more immediately incumbent upon us, in an Age when Brothels are become in a Manner the Seminaries of Education, and that eſpecially of thoſe Youths, whoſe Birth makes their right Inſtitution of the utmoſt Conſequence to the future Well-being of the Public: For whatever may be the Education of theſe Youths, however vitiated and enervated their Minds and Bodies may be with Vices and Diſeaſes, they are born to be the Governors of our Poſterity. If, therefore, thro' the egregious Folly of their Parents, this Town is to be the School of ſuch Youths, it behoves us, Gentlemen, to take as much Care as poſſible to correct the Morals of that School.

And,

And, Gentlemen, there are other Houſes, rather leſs ſcandalous, perhaps, but equally dangerous to the Society; in which Houſes the Manners of Youth are greatly tainted and corrupted. Theſe are thoſe Places of public Rendezvous where idle Perſons of both Sexes meet in a very diſorderly Manner, often at improper Hours, and ſometimes in diſguiſed Habits. Theſe Houſes, which pretend to be the Scenes of innocent Diverſion and Amuſement, are in Reality the Temples of Iniquity. Such Meetings are *contra bonos mores*; they are conſidered in Law in the Nature of a Nuiſance, and as ſuch, the Keepers and Maintainers of them may be preſented and puniſhed.

There is great Difference, Gentlemen, between a moroſe and overſanctified Spirit, which excludes all Kind of Diverſion, and a profligate Diſpoſition which hurries us into the moſt vicious Exceſſes of this Kind. 'The Common 'Law,' ſays Mr. *Pulton* in his excellent Treatiſe *de Pace, fol.* 25. *b.* 'allows many Recreations, which be not with 'Intent to break or diſturb the Peace, or to offer Violence, 'Force, or Hurt to the Perſon of any; but either to try 'Activity, or to increaſe Society, Amity, and neighbourly Friendſhip.' He there enumerates many Sorts of innocent Diverſions of the rural Kind, and which for the moſt Part belong to the lower Sort of People. For the upper Part of Mankind, and in this Town, there are many lawful Amuſements, abundantly ſufficient for the Recreation of any temperate and ſober Mind. But, Gentlemen, ſo immoderate are the Deſires of many, ſo hungry is their Appetite for Pleaſure, that they may be ſaid to have a Fury after it; and Diverſion is no longer the Recreation or Amuſement, but the whole Buſineſs of their Lives. They are not content with three Theatres, they muſt have a fourth; where the Exhibitions are not only contrary to Law, but contrary to Good-Manners, and where the Stage is reduced back again to that Degree of Licentiouſneſs which was too enormous for the corrupt State of *Athens* to tolerate; and which, as the *Roman* Poet, rather, I think, in the Spirit of a Cenſor than a Satyriſt, tells us, thoſe *Athenians*, who were not themſelves abuſed, took Care to aboliſh, from their Concern for the Public.

Gentlemen, our News-Papers, from the Top of the Page to the Bottom, the Corners of our Streets up to the very Eves of our Houſes, preſent us with nothing but a View

of Maſquerades, Balls, and Aſſemblies of various Kinds, Fairs, Wells, Gardens, &c. tending to promote Idleneſs, Extravagance and Immorality, among all Sorts of People.

This Fury after licentious and luxurious Pleaſures is grown to ſo enormous a Height, that it may be called the Characteriſtic of the preſent Age. And it is an Evil, Gentlemen, of which it is neither eaſy nor pleaſant to foreſee all the Conſequences. Many of them, however, are obvious; and theſe are ſo dreadful, that they will, I doubt not, induce you to uſe your beſt Endeavours to check the further Encreaſe of this growing Miſchief; for the Rod of the Law, Gentlemen, muſt reſtrain thoſe within the Bounds of Decency and Sobriety, who are deaf to the Voice of Reaſon, and ſuperior to the Fear of Shame.

Gentlemen, there are another Sort of theſe Temples of Iniquity, and theſe are Gaming-Houſes. This Vice, Gentlemen, is inſeparable from a luxurious and idle Age; for while Luxury produces Want, Idleneſs forbids honeſt Labour to ſupply it. All ſuch Houſes are Nuiſances in the Eye of the Common Law; and ſevere Puniſhments, as well on thoſe who keep them, as on thoſe who frequent and play at them, are inflicted by many Statutes. Of theſe Houſes, Gentlemen, you will, I doubt not, enquire with great Diligence; for though poſſibly there may be ſome Offenders out of your Reach, yet if thoſe within it be well and ſtrictly proſecuted, it may, perhaps, in Time have ſome Effect on the others. Example in this Caſe may, contrary to its general Courſe, move upwards; and Men may become aſhamed of offending againſt thoſe Laws with Impunity, by which they ſee their Inferiors brought to Puniſhment. But if this Effect ſhould not be produced, yet, Gentlemen, there is no Reaſon why you ſhould not exert your Duty as far as you are able, becauſe you cannot extend it as far as you deſire. And to ſay the Truth, to prevent Gaming among the lower Sort of People is principally the Buſineſs of Society; and for this plain Reaſon, becauſe they are the moſt uſeful Members of the Society; which by ſuch Means will loſe the Benefit of their Labour. As for the Rich and Great, the Conſequence is generally no other than the Exchange of Property from the Hands of a Fool into thoſe of a Sharper, who is, perhaps, the more worthy of the two to enjoy it.

I will

I will mention only one Article more, and that of a very high Nature indeed. It is, Gentlemen, the Offence of Libelling, which is puniſhed by the Common Law, as it tends Immediately to Quarrels and Breaches of the Peace, and very often to Bloodſhed and Murder itſelf.

The Puniſhment of this Offence, ſaith my Lord *Coke*, is Fine or Impriſonment; and if the Caſe be exorbitant, by Pillory and Loſs of Ears.

And, Gentlemen, even the laſt of theſe Judgments will appear extremely mild, if we conſider in the firſt Place the atrocious Temper of Mind from which this proceeds.

Mr. *Pulton*, in the Beginning of his Treatiſe *de Pace*, ſays of a Libeller, 'that he is a ſecret Canker, which conceal-'eth his Name, hideth himſelf in a Corner, and privily 'ſtingeth his Neighbour in his Fame, Reputation, and Cre-'dit; who neither knows from whom, nor for what Cauſe 'he receiveth his Blows, nor hath any Means to defend 'himſelf:' And my Lord *Coke*, in his 5th *Report* (125) compares him to a Poiſoner, who is the meaneſt, the vileſt, and moſt dangerous of all Murderers. Nor can I help repeating to you a moſt beautiful Paſſage in the great Orator *Demoſthenes*, who compares this Wretch to a Viper, which Men ought to cruſh where-ever they find him, without ſtaying until he bite them.

In the ſecond Place, if we conſider the Injury done by theſe Libellers, it muſt raiſe the Indignation of every honeſt and good Man: For what is this, but, as Mr. *Pulton* ſays, 'a Note of Infamy, intended to defame the Perſon at 'whom it is levelled, to tread his Honour and Eſtimation in 'the Duſt, to extirpate and root out his Reputation from 'the Face of the Earth, to make him a Scorn to his Ene-'mies, and to be derided and deſpiſed by his Neighbours.'

If Praiſe, and Honour, and Reputation, be ſo highly eſteemed by the greateſt and beſt of Men, that they are often the only Rewards which they propoſe to themſelves from the nobleſt Actions: If there be nothing too difficult, too dangerous, or too diſagreeable for Men to encounter, in order to acquire and preſerve theſe Rewards; what a Degree of Wickedneſs and Barbarity muſt it be unjuſtly and wantonly to ſtrip Men of that on which they place ſo high a Value.

Nor is Reputation to be conſidered as a chimerical Good, or as merely the Food of Vanity and Ambition. Our

wordly Intereſts are cloſely connected with our Fame: By loſing this, we are deprived of the chief Comforts of Society, particularly of that which is moſt dear to us, the Friendſhip and Love of all good and virtuous Men. Nay, the Common Law indulged ſo great a Privilege to Men of good Reputation in their Neighbourhood, that in many Actions the Defendant's Word was taken in his own Cauſe, if he could bring a certain Number of his Neighbours to vouch that they believed him.

On the contrary, whoever robs us of our good Name, doth not only expoſe us to public Contempt and Avoidance, but even to Puniſhment: For by the Statute 34 *Edw.* III. *c.* 1. the Juſtices of the Peace are empowered and directed to bind all ſuch as be not of good Fame to their good Behaviour, and if they cannot find ſufficient Sureties, they may be committed to Priſon.

Seeing, therefore, the execrable Miſchiefs perpetrated by this ſecret Canker, this Viper, this Poiſoner, in Society, we ſhall not wonder to hear him ſo ſeverely condemned in Scripture; nor that *Ariſtotle* in his Politics ſhould mention Slander as one of thoſe great Evils which it is difficult for a Legiſlator to guard againſt; that the *Athenians* puniſhed it with a very ſevere and heavy Fine, and the *Romans* with Death.

But though the Libeller of private Perſons be ſo deteſtable a Vermin, yet is the Offence ſtill capable of Aggravation, when the Poiſon is ſcattered upon public Perſons and Magiſtrates. All ſuch Reflections are, as my Lord *Coke* obſerves, a Scandal on the Government itſelf: And ſuch Scandal tends not only to the Breach of the Peace, but to raiſe Seditions and Inſurrections among the whole Body of the People.

And, Gentlemen, the higher and greater the Magiſtrates be againſt whom ſuch Slanders are propagated, the greater is the Danger to the Society; and ſuch we find to have been the Senſe of the Legiſlature in the 2d Year of *R.* 2. For in the Statute of that Year, *chap.* 5. it is ſaid, 'that by ſuch 'Means Diſcords may ariſe between the Lords and Com-'mons, whereof great Peril and Miſchief might come to 'all the Realm, and quick Subverſion and Deſtruction of 'the ſaid Realm.' And of ſuch Conſequence was this apprehended to be, that we find no leſs than four Statutes to prohibit

prohibit and puniſh it; *viz. Weſt.* 1. *c.* 33. 2 *R.* 2. *c.* 5. 12 *R.* 2. *c.* 11. and 2 and 3 *P. & M. c.* 12. By this laſt Statute a Juriſdiction was given to the Juſtices of Peace to enquire of all ſuch Offences; and if it was by Book, Ballad, Letter or Writing, the Offender's Right-hand was to be ſtricken off for the firſt Offence, and for the ſecond he was to incur a Præmunire.

This laſt Statute was afterwards prolonged in the laſt Year of Q. *Mary*, and in the firſt of *Elizabeth*, during the Life of that Princeſs, and of the Heirs of her Body.

I have mentioned theſe Laws to you, Gentlemen, to ſhew you the Senſe of our Anceſtors of a Crime which, I believe, they never ſaw carried to ſo flagitious a Height as it is at preſent; when, to the Shame of the Age be it ſpoken, there are Men who make a Livelihood of Scandal. Moſt of theſe are Perſons of the loweſt Rank and Education, Men who lazily declining the Labour to which they were born and bred, ſave the Sweat of their Brows at the Expence of their Conſciences; and in order to get a little better Livelihood, are content to get it, perhaps, in a leſs painful, but in a baſer Way than the meaneſt Mechanic.

Of theſe, Gentlemen, it is your Buſineſs to enquire; of the Deviſers, of the Writers, of the Printers, and of the Publiſhers of all ſuch Libels; and I do heartily recommend this Enquiry to your Care.

To conclude, Gentlemen, you will conſider yourſelves as now ſummoned to the Execution of an Office, of the utmoſt Importance to the well-being of this Community: Nor will you, I am confident, ſuffer that Eſtabliſhment, ſo wiſely and carefully regulated, and ſo ſtoutly and zealouſly maintained by your wiſe aud brave Anceſtors, to degenerate into mere Form and Shadow. Grand Juries, Gentlemen, are in Reality the only Cenſors of this Nation. As ſuch, the Manners of the People are in your Hands, and in yours only. You, therefore, are the only Correctors of them. If you neglect your Duty, the certain Conſequences to the Public are too apparent: For as in a Garden, however well cultivated at firſt, if the Weeder's Care be omitted, the Whole muſt in Time be over-run with Weeds, and will reſemble the Wildneſs and Rudeneſs of a Deſert; ſo if thoſe Immoralities of the People, which will ſprout up in the beſt Conſtitution, be not from Time to Time corrected by the Hand of Juſtice, they will at length grow up to the moſt

enormous

enormous Vices, will overſpread the whole Nation, and in the End muſt produce a downright State of wild and ſavage Barbariſm.

To this Cenſorial Office, Gentlemen, you are called by our excellent Conſtitution. To execute this Duty with Vigilance, you are obliged by the Duty you owe both to God and to your Country. You are inveſted with full Power for the Purpoſe. This you have promiſed to do, under the ſacred Sanction of an Oath; and you are all met, I doubt not, with a Diſpoſition and Reſolution to perform it, with that Zeal which I have endeavoured to recommend, and which the peculiar Licentiouſneſs of the Age ſo ſtrongly requires.

FINIS.